

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

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EXCON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, GW, UR

SUBJECT: COCOM-SALE OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT TO USSR

BY FRG

REFS: (A) STATE 2L0987 (NOTAL), (B) BONN L52L0,

(C) BONN L4933, (D) OECD 22528

L. ECON/COMM MINISTER HAS DISCUSSED WITH RANDERMANN AND OTHER RESPONSIBLE FRG FONOFF OFFICIALS MATTERS RAISED IN PARA 4, REFTEL A. RANDERMANN SAID HE WAS ONLY ABLE TO GIVE PRELIMINARY REACTION TO QUESTIONS ON SAFEGUARDS, SITE OF FUEL REPROCESSING AND DISPOSITION OF PLUTONIUM GENERATED BY SUBJECT POWER PLANTS BUT WOULD RETURN WITH MORE DEFINITE INFORMATION LATER. ALSO SAID HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO SEE THAT HERMES BE BRIEFED BEFORE HE LEFT FOR WASHINGTON (SEE BONN 14479).

2. FONOFF REPS TOLD US THAT TO THEIR KNOWLEDGE THE
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QUESTION OF WHETHER THE USSR WOULD RETURN THE "TAILS"

FROM THE ENRICHMENT PROCESS OR WHICH COUNTRY WOULD REPROCESS THE SPENT FUEL ELEMENTS HAS NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED. (NOTE: PARA 7 OF REF C FOR TECHMIN CONFIRMATION OF THIS POINT.) NEITHER HAS THE QUESTION OF WHICH COUNTRY WOULD RETAIN THE PLUTONIUM GENERATED BEEN ADDRESSED. AS TO THE APPLICABILITY OF SAFEGUARDS UNDER THE NPT, IT WAS THE OPINION OF THE FONOFF REPS THAT SINCE USSR IS A NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATE, THE NATURAL URANIUM SENT FROM FRG, THE ENRICHED URANIUM PRODUCT, THE ASSOCIATED "TAILS," THE FABRICATED FUEL ELEMENTS, THE SPENT FUEL ELEMENTS, AND THE RESULTANT PRODUCTS (INCLUDING PLUTONIUM) OF THE FUEL ELEMENT REPROCESSING (IF THIS WERE TO TAKE PLACE IN USSR) WOULD NOT COME UNDER SAFEGUARDS. HOWEVER, ALL NUCLEAR MATERIALS CONNECTED WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS FINALLY NEGOTIATED WHICH WERE PRESENT IN FRG WOULD BE SUBJECT TO EURATOM SAFEGUARD ARRANGEMENTS.

3. RANDERMANN TOLD US THAT SINCE DETAILED CONTRACT WAS BEING HANDLED BY THE UTILITIES FONOFF DID NOT HAVE ALL THE DETAILS. IN ADDITION, HE STATED THAT THE EXACT SITE FOR THE PLANT HAD NOT BEEN FINALLY DECIDED. EMBASSY COMMENT: FRG ECONOMICS MINISTRY OFFICIALS CONFIRM THAT THE PLANT WILL BE LOCATED IN THE KALININGRAD-MEMEL AREA.

4. AS TO THE QUESTION OF GDR CONTROL OF TRANSMISSION LINES CROSSING LATTER'S TERRITORY, FONOFF REPS ASSERTED THAT THEY ASSUMED GDR WOULD HAVE CONTROL. SO FAR FRG HAS LEARNED FROM USSR THAT GDR HAS GIVEN GENERAL CONSENT FOR THE LINES GOING ACROSS ITS TERRITORY, BUT IT IS AN OPEN QUESTION WHETHER FRG-GDR AGREEMENT WOULD BE NECESSARY.

5. IN RESPONSE TO OUR EXPRESSIONS OF U.S. INTEREST IN THE FRG'S AGREEMENTS WITH THE USSR OVER THE DISPOSITION OF BY-PRODUCTS OF ENRICHMENT PROCESS, FONOFF OFFICIALS SAID THEY WERE SIMILARLY INTERESTED IN THE ARRANGEMENTS BEING NEGOTIATED BY GENERAL ELECTRIC, WHICH REPORTEDLY IS SEEKING AGREEMENT FOR THE ENRICHMENT OF URANIUM IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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